United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1030
3 December 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly appoints Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt as new Secretary-General of United Nations, for a five-year term beginning 1 January 1992.

- Nelson Mandela tells Assembly that desired political settlement in South Africa cannot survive if question of mass poverty is not addressed; sanctions only to be lifted corresponding to progress being made in that country.

- Assembly would welcome convening of Middle East peace conference in Madrid as "significant step", according to draft approved by Palestinian Rights Committee.

- United Nations human rights advisory team visits Lesotho to help with election planning.

- Draft in Economic and Financial Committee seeks global moratorium on driftnet fishing by end of next year.

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Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, was appointed by acclamation by the General Assembly this morning the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations, for a five-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

In a statement to the Assembly, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that, in the name of every African, he wished to express appreciation for the opportunity afforded to Africa, through his election, to take part in the service of the international community. "Africa feels ready to make its contribution by virtue of its creative ability and recent achievements in the international arena", he said.

He went on to say that because he belonged to Egypt, an Arab African State that bordered the Mediterranean Sea, which, throughout the ages had been a crossroad for many cultures, it was his fervent desire to communicate

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cultural legacy through mutual cooperation, and to raise the banner of peace wherever there was underdevelopment, conflict and tension in the world.

He was well aware, he stated, that the Organization faced the need for fundamental readjustments in response to a world in constant transformation. A number of basic issues confronted the international community, he said. Outlining those issues, Mr. Boutros-Ghali cited the need for strengthening of United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making; narrowing of the gap between the north and the south; and the strengthening of the fundamental freedoms and democratic institutions as well as democracy on the international level.

In his statement to the Assembly, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar expressed his satisfaction with the unanimous decision of the General Assembly. He said he was happy to leave his delicate post in the hands of an Egyptian of "notable skill and courage", who was also endowed with "the vision and pragmatism necessary in the times to come". He was also happy that, as he left his post, the Organization was no longer on the sidelines, but was at the hub of world affairs. Only in one respect -- financial insolvency, not due to poor management -- was there a problem, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said.

The Secretary-General-designate holds several positions related to his background in law, international affairs and political science, among them, his membership in the institute of International Law, the International Institute of Human Rights, the African Society of Political Studies and the Academie des Sciences Morales et Politique (Academie Francaise, Paris).

He has participated in many conferences, meetings and symposia over the last four decades. They deal, among other things, with international law, human rights, economic and social development, decolonization, the Middle East question, non-alignment, and Afro-Arab cooperation.

In September 1978, Mr. Boutros-Ghali attended the Camp David Summit Conference and had a role in negotiating the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel, which were signed in 1979. He has led many delegations of his country to, among others, meetings of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as to the Summit Conference of the French and the African Heads of State. He has similarly headed Egypt's delegation to the General Assembly sessions in 1979, 1982 and 1990.

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Following the appointment of the new Secretary-General, Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, addressed the Assembly, as it continued its debate on South Africa. Mr. Mandela said that South Africa had embarked on its own race to normality and that the black majority could see on the horizon, the "new glorious entity" which would no longer be spoken of as the "pariah among nations".

He however pointed out that the new South Africa would have to address the burning question of mass poverty, which afflicted millions, especially the black population. The question of the gross racial imbalances in the

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distribution of income, wealth, land and opportunity had to be dealt with, he said.

Mr. Mandela went on to say that continued international pressure was necessary to end the apartheid system in South Africa and sanctions should only be lifted in phases that corresponded to the progress being made in that country. Two major phases would be: the establishment of an interim government; and the election of a new government based on a democratic constitution. The United Nations should "heed the voice of the oppressed" by handling sanctions in that manner.

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According to a draft resolution approved by the Palestinian Rights Committee yesterday, the General Assembly would welcome the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid which began on 30 October. The Assembly would also note that the conference "constitutes a significant step towards the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region".

The text further stated that a United Nations-sponsored peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the five permanent members of the Security Council, would contribute to the promotion of peace in the region. It would also have the Assembly note the "expressed desire and endeavours to place the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, under the supervision of the United Nations for a transitional period, as part of the peace process".

The text was one of five draft resolutions on the question of Palestine approved by the Committee. The other four drafts deal with the uprising (intifadah) of the Palestinian people and the work of various United Nations bodies on behalf of the rights of the Palestinian people.

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A three-member United Nations expert team began last week an official visit to Lesotho to provide assistance in the legal and technical aspects of democratic elections for the parliamentary elections, scheduled for 1992. The mission is taking place within the the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights.

The last elections in Lesotho took place in January 1970. Last year, the present Government decided to hold elections and convened a National Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution. The Government informed the United Nations of its earnest wish that the 1992 elections should meet international standards of free and fair elections.

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A 50 per cent reduction in large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing efforts by all members of the international community by 30 June 1992, and a global moratorium on all such fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas by 31 December 1992, are among the terms of a 28-Power draft text introduced by the United States yesterday afternoon in the General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

The introduction of the driftnet fishing draft follows last week's debate during which speakers said such practices harmed endangered or threatened species and called for a moratorium on driftnet fishing by the end of next year. During that debate, Japan also announced that it had reached agreement with the United States on a package of measures by which Japan would limit its fishing activities in the North Pacific for one more fishing season and impose a full moratorium by 31 December 1992. The representative of Japan, Karsumi Sezaki, said his Government had taken into account the concerns expressed by Member States before reaching this agreement.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1031
4 December 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General welcomes release of American hostage Terry Anderson; will continue work "on private basis", if necessary, for release of remaining German, Israeli and Lebanese hostages and detainees.

- President of Security Council calls it "unacceptable" that safety of members of United Nations peace-keeping operation in Lebanon is endangered; notes with "deep regret" recent killing of Irish UNIFIL soldier and wounding of others.

- Secretary-General appeals to 102 Member States, which owe the United Nations almost $1 billion in unpaid assessments, "to pay now".

- Secretary-General reports that talks between Government of El Salvador and FMLN are under way in Mexico on "intensive, virtually uninterrupted basis"; calls for continued international support.

- Pledging conference for United Nations Palestine Relief Agency receives promised contributions of $149 million.

- Many General Assembly speakers maintain that apartheid still persists in South Africa despite repeal of important legislation.

- World Food Programme Governing body begins meeting in Rome to consider proposals for relief operations and food aid for victims of war, strife and disasters.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that the release of American hostage Terry Anderson, and with that "the closing of the American Chapter", was an "enormous satisfaction" to him, from a humanitarian point of view.

He said his happiness would be total when all of the hostages and detainees were free, including two Germans, the missing Israelis and the over two hundred Lebanese who are detained in the southern part of Lebanon.

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It was his hope that everything would be settled before 31 December. If it was not, he would continue his efforts on a private basis, he said, because "it is a matter of confidence and trust in the person, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar".

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The President of the Security Council, Yuliy M. Vorontsov (Soviet Union) today, in a statement on behalf of Council members, noted with deep regret the recent incident in which one soldier of the Irish contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was killed and others wounded by de facto forces.

The Council President made the statement this afternoon following informal consultations during which the Council considered the special report of the Secretary-General on the incident.

According to the statement, the Council found it "unacceptable" that the safety of members of a United Nations peace-keeping operation was endangered, and urgently called for restraint on the part of all concerned. It further expressed deep concern at the "heightened tension and hostilities" in the UNIFIL area of operation in recent months and the risk to which this had exposed UNIFIL personnel, as well as the Lebanese civilian population in the area.

The Council also conveyed its "deep-felt sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of Ireland and to the bereaved family".

The 15 November incident, in which the Irish soldier was killed, was the 101st casualty suffered by UNIFIL and the 21st such casualty suffered by the Irish contingent. According to the Secretary-General's report, the incident was strongly protested to the Israeli authorities, both locally and in New York.

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The Secretary-General today appealed to the 102 Member States, which, as of 31 October, have failed to meet their financial obligations to the United Nations, and especially "the relatively prosperous economies, to pay now".

He made the appeal during the General Assembly's debate this afternoon on the current financial crisis of the United Nations.

In his statement, the Secretary-General said that even though the situation was well known, member countries had no hesitation in asking the Secretariat to undertake new, complex and challenging activities. "Yesterday, it was Cambodia. Tomorrow it could possibly be Yugoslavia. Will these activities be properly funded" ? Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar asked.

In his report to the Assembly, dated 19 November, on the Organization's financial crisis, the Secretary-General proposed to ask Governments, the

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private sector and individuals to set up a $1 billion Peace Endowment Fund in an effort to solve the problem. He also proposed to charge interests on the amounts of assessed contributions that were not paid in time. Among other proposals, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar suggested the establishment of two Funds each at a level of $ 50 million -- a peace-keeping reserve fund and a humanitarian fund. He also asked for permission to borrow commercially, should other sources of cash be inadequate.

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Negotiations between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí Para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) are currently under way in Mexico on an "intensive, virtually uninterrupted basis", according to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 2 December, the Secretary-General calls the FMLN's decision to cease offensive operations unilaterally on 16 November "a positive development", as was President Cristiani's rapid, favourable reaction. Armed confrontation appears to have "considerably dwindled" since then, he says.

Both sides have repeatedly affirmed their desire to reach agreement as rapidly as possible on the remaining pending issues, which, the Secretary-General says, are of considerable complexity. In the absence of specific agreements and independent monitoring the situation remains "inherently fragile", he says.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar concludes that the strong support of the international community will continue to be needed until a cease-fire is reached and beyond, "in the delicate phase of transition to a durable peace".

The basis for the current talks between the El Salvadorian Government and the FMLN was established by the New York Agreement reached on 25 September.

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A total of $149.1 million has been pledged to the 1992 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The pledges were made by some 34 countries, including the Holy See, at a meeting yesterday of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA. A number of States promised to announce their contributions at a later date.

Additionally, the Netherlands and the United States pledged $1.7 million and $1 million, respectively, in response to a special appeal by the Commissioner-General concerning Palestinian returnees from the Gulf.

According to the UNRWA report to the General Assembly, planned expenditure for UNRWA's regular programme for the 1992-1993 biennium amounted

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to $572 million. In addition, the cost of maintaining various ongoing programmes for the biennium was set at $30.3 million and was expected to be fully funded by donors during the biennium.

In a statement to the Pledging Conference, General Assembly President Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), said that UNWRA had stood as a symbol of the commitment of the international community to provide for the dispersed and dispossessed Palestinian population. He said the need for broad and deep international financial support was greater than ever. Increased support, he added, could be a confidence-building measure during the search for peace.

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Despite changes in South Africa, such as the repeal of important apartheid legislation this year, the practice and consequences of apartheid persists, a number of speakers maintained this morning during the the General Assembly's third day of debate on South Africa's apartheid policies.

Among those addressing the Assembly, the representative of Tanzania, Anthony B. Nyakyi, said any premature relaxation of sanctions could derail the constitutional process. Conservative elements within South Africa must know that the international community was serious in its insistence on the eradication of apartheid.

This view was echoed by other delegations who said that if progress was to be sustained, economic sanctions should not be lifted prematurely. Rather, the relaxation of sanctions should correspond with further steps by the South African Government.

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The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes -- the governing body of the World Food Programme (WFP) -- began yesterday in Rome its session to consider, among its agenda items, the Programme's major disaster relief operations in the Horn of Africa and the Persian Gulf. The Committee will also consider preparations under way to provide food assistance to 350,000 Cambodians expected to return to their country next year.

During the session, which will conclude on 13 December, the 30-member governing body will consider operations providing food assistance to 6 million destitute, long-term refugees and displaced persons -- victims of protracted crises which, in some cases, have lasted more than a decade, and 20 new or expanded development projects, all but three of them in low-income, food deficit countries.

The WFP is the largest source of multilateral development aid for developing countries, after the World Bank, and the largest source of multilateral food assistance for emergencies.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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5 December 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament reports "no progress" in policy of Iraq with regard to weapons sites designated for inspection; "non-cooperation and obstruction continue to be encountered".

- Yugoslav Government calls for "consistent and complete" realization of Geneva Accords, signed on 23 November, as precondition for reinstatement of peace in all parts of Yugoslavia.

- Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently, elect Bola Ajibola of Nigeria to International Court of Justice.

- Secretary-General, in message on occasion of World AIDS Day, warns of "major, far-reaching implications for every society" if problem of pandemic is not addressed in timely manner.

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The Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekéus, has said that there is "no progress" to report, in the period under review, which would indicate a change of policy on the part of Iraq to "one of candour, transparency and cooperation at all levels".

In his second report to the Security Council, dated 4 December, covering the period since 15 October, Mr. Ekeus said that where the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were acting on their own sources of information regarding possible clandestine conduct of proscribed activities, "non-cooperation and obstruction" continued to be encountered.

He said experience had shown that results could only be achieved when resolute stands were taken in response to challenges by Iraq to the implementation of "various aspects of the mandate of the Special Commission and the IAEA". Such stands, he said, could only be based on the "full support" of the United Nations as a whole and its Member Governments -- support which was "crucial" to the Commission's effectiveness. He pointed to the "difficult issues" that would arise with regard to the Special

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Commission's future monitoring of the destruction and removal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the facilities for their production.

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The Federal Government of Yugoslavia has called on the parties to the present conflict to abide consistently and completely with the Geneva Accords, signed on 23 November, as a "precondition" for the reinstatement of peace in all parts of that country. The Government said that it was of "utmost priority", at this moment, to create the conditions for the immediate deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force.

According to a statement transmitted to the President of the Security Council yesterday, the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council said the cease-fire was necessary to avert the war atrocities, destruction, and further loss of life as well as social hardships, which were imminent even without the war.

It emphasized the importance of the present mission of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance and stressed that the presence of peace-keeping forces would create the conditions for the resumption of The Hague Conference on Yugoslavia, chaired by Lord Carrington, as soon as possible. It also called for a future agreement on the country's functioning in the transitional period in order to define conditions for life and work and security for all property of all citizens in all parts of the country.

The statement was transmitted to the United Nations by the Yugoslav Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Darco Silovic.

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The Security Council, meeting concurrently with the General Assembly, today elected Bola Ajibola (Nigeria) to the International Court of Justice. Mr. Ajibola, a legal practitioner and editor of law journals and reviews, fills a seat left vacant by the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias (Nigeria) on 14 August. The term of Mr. Ajibola, who will complete Judge Elias's term, expires on 5 February 1994.

Elections to the Court require an absolute majority of votes in both the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The Assembly, at a similar meeting, elected Mr. Adjibola on the second ballot.

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The United Nations Headquarters was observing today World AIDS Day -- traditionally observed on 1 December -- with a panel-meeting of distinguished officials to discuss the economic, social and human costs of the pandemic.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said in a message, delivered on his behalf by Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social

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Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, that AIDS continued its spread and had affected millions of people around the world. If the tide of the disease was not turned soon, the loss of millions of the most productive members of society could have incalculable economic, social and political consequences in many countries. Regrettably, he said, some of the same factors that quietly fueled the pandemic in the first place were still impeding prevention and control efforts. More needed to be done in order to overcome "this global problem" to avoid "major, far-reaching implications for every society".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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6 December 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General deplores reports of resumed shelling of Dubrovnik and areas near Osijek; calls for "scrupulous" observance of Geneva Agreements of 23 November on Yugoslav cease-fire.

- Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it extend mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for another six months, until 15 May 1992.

- Secretary-General says time is "fast approaching" for negotiations between El Salvador Government and FMLN to move to New York.

- Secretary-General makes statement at ceremony at Headquarters launching "Earth Pledge" to make planet secure and hospitable for all generations.

- Global moratorium on all large-scale drift-net fishing recommended in Economic and Financial Committee draft for approval by General Assembly.

- General Assembly calls for strengthened cooperation with League of Arab States on Middle East concerns.

- Proposed $6.6 million increase for United Nations peace-making efforts in Afghanistan among drafts approved by Administrative and Budgetary Committee.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today through his Spokesman that he was disturbed to learn from his Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, of the resumed shelling of Dubrovnik and neighbouring areas. He said that "at this critical moment", it was imperative that the Geneva Agreements of 23 November be scrupulously observed by the parties in Yugoslavia and that no actions be taken outside that country that could further complicate the situation and jeopardize the efforts currently underway.

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The continued presence of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) remains indispensable to achieve the objectives set by the Security Council, according to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. He has therefore recommended, in a report to the Council dated 30 November, that it extend the mandate of the Force for a further six-month period, until 15 May 1992.

In his report, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar expresses the view that the two communities -- the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot -- could make "better use" of UNFICYP's ability to promote and facilitate "greater contact" between them. It is the Force's mandate to promote a return to normal conditions in Cyprus -- an aspect which he says will receive "more emphasis in the future".

In making his recommendation, the Secretary-General stressed that UNFICYP is "facing a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis", which, he said, "imposes a most unfair burden on the troop-contributing countries". He urged the Council to place UNFICYP on a "sound and secure financial footing".

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The Secretary-General's Spokesman said today in a statement issued at Headquarters, that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had met today with the Ambassadors of Colombia, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela -- the "Friends of the Secretary-General" -- and briefed them on progress in the talks on El Salvador currently underway in Mexico.

The Spokesman said the Secretary-General had been closely following negotiations between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), through his Personal Representative, Alvaro de Soto, and that he continued to attach a high priority to the resolution of the conflict in El Salvador.

It was the judgement of the Secretary-General, the Spokesman said, based on the reports and recommendations of his Representative, that the negotiations should move to New York, hopefully next week, so that the Secretary-General could intervene personally should the need arise, and in order to facilitate the participation of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding in regard to arrangements for verification of the cease-fire.

The Secretary-General called upon the negotiators to intensify their efforts so that when the talks move to New York, the issues shall have been substantially narrowed to a point where final decisions could be expeditiously adopted.

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Maurice Strong, today launched Earth Pledge -- an urgent call for individual as well as united action to save Planet Earth.

At a ceremony in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, Mr. Strong said the Pledge was a simple instrument to engage people in the act of commitment. An "Earth Summit Committee to Promote the Pledge" had been established as a forerunner to the UNCED conference scheduled for June in Brazil. The Committee's mission would be to promote the Pledge, as well as to bring public attention to the Rio Conference.

In his statement at the ceremony, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said the 1992 Conference would provide a crucial test of the political will not only to accept but to foster and manage the changes needed in the economic and environmental sphere. By signing the Earth Pledge, he said, people all over the world would affirm their personal dedication to making the planet a better one.

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A global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, to be achieved by 31 December 1992, was recommended to the General Assembly this morning by the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

The recommendation was contained in a draft text, approved without a vote, which would have the Assembly call on the international community, beginning on 1 January, to reduce fishing efforts in existing large-scale pelagic high seas drift-net fisheries, so as to achieve, after six months, a 50 per cent reduction in fishing efforts and the global moratorium by the end of next year.

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The General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation with the League of Arab States in order to implement United Nations resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East.

In a resolution adopted yesterday by a recorded vote of 140 in favour to 2 against (Israel and the United States), the Assembly also decided that a general meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States should take place once every two years, the next being in 1992, and requested the Secretary-General to encourage periodic consultations between the Secretariats of the two organizations.

In other action yesterday, the Assembly called for faithful implementation of the 1988 Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan and for all parties to search for a political solution on the basis of the principles contained in a statement by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's principles include the necessity of preserving the territorial integrity and Islamic character of the country, recognition of Afghans' right to determine their own form of Government, the need for a transition period, the necessity of ending arms supplies and the need for financial resources to aid in the country's reconstruction.

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A draft resolution calling for additional funds of $6.6 million for United Nations peace-making efforts in Afghanistan was approved yesterday by the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). By the text, the Secretary-General would continue and intensify his efforts for a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan. The draft was approved as the Committee continued its debate on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Explaining his country's position, Richard Kinchen of the United Kingdom said he strongly supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to bring peace to Afghanistan. However, at the same time, the Committee must recall that repeated concerns had been expressed regarding the level of justification given for proposed additional expenditures. Specifically, the rental and operation of the aircraft appeared disproportionate to the mission, he said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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9 December 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses hope for continued cooperation and support from Iran, Germany and Israel, among others, for release of remaining detainees and hostages.

- Secretary-General to hear report from his Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, who has returned to New York.

- Social Committee hears call for coordinated national and international response to "multifaceted" crime problems by Director-General of United Nations Office at Vienna.

- General Assembly adopts 38 resolutions and three decisions on issues of disarmament, international security and question of Antarctica.

- Human Rights Day, to be observed tomorrow, 10 December, will focus on twenty-fifth anniversary of International Covenants on Human Rights.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that he had been in touch, during the last few days, with some of the Governments and others who can further assist him in his efforts to maintain the momentum for the release of the remaining detainees and hostages.

In a statement through his Spokesman, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that he had maintained contacts with Iran, Germany and Israel, among others, in an effort to solve the remaining humanitarian problems. He expressed hope that the cooperation and support he had received until now would continue in the next few weeks to facilitate the release of the Lebanese detained without due process of law, the restitution of the remains of Israelis who died in Lebanon and the establishment of the fate of the missing Israeli. He said he had been approached by several Governments and individuals to ascertain the whereabouts of others who have disappeared in Lebanon over the years and would do his best to put an end to the suffering of families who live in uncertainty about the fate of their loved ones.

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The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he had received from the Lebanese groups in making possible the results achieved so far. He also thanked the Government of Israel for having facilitated the release of so many Lebanese until now. These results, the Secretary-General said, would not have been possible without the continuous assistance of the Governments of Iran, Syria and Lebanon.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar commented this morning on the situation in Yugoslavia and on reports of a "local cease-fire" in Dubrovnik, saying it was holding "more or less". He told correspondents that it was not what he would call "a total cease-fire" which, he said, was indispensable for the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation to that country.

The Secretary-General said he was expecting to hear a report tomorrow by his Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, who had returned to New York today.

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Crime and criminal justice must be addressed as multifaceted problems requiring coordinated national and international responses, said Margaret Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as the debate on questions of crime prevention and criminal justice began today in the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

In an opening statement to the Committee, Ms. Anstee said humane and efficient criminal justice would permit equity, constructive social change and social justice, protecting basic values and the inalienable rights of peoples. One of the most important recommendations from the recent Versailles Ministerial Summit on crime prevention, she said, was the establishment of a new Commission to address the issue. Describing the proposed new programme of the Commission, she said its tasks would not only include providing assistance to member States in combating national and transnational crime, but also considering the desirability of an international convention on crime prevention and criminal justice.

Robert Van Schaik, the representative of the Netherlands, spoke on behalf of the European Community, pointing out that while underdevelopment and its lack of social opportunities might be said to generate lawlessness and crime, development appeared to create new opportunities for new forms of crime, including acts causing pollution of the natural environment.

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While noting South Africa's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the General Assembly has stressed the need for South Africa to fully disclose its nuclear installations and

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materials. It also called upon South Africa to comply fully with the safeguards agreement it had concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

That resolution was one of 38 resolutions and 3 decisions adopted on Friday on issues related to disarmament, international security and the question of Antarctica.

By a resolution on Antarctica, the Assembly welcomed the recent signing in Madrid of the Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty which deals with environmental protection. It expressed disappointment, however, that the Protocol was not negotiated with the full participation of the international community. It also expressed concern that steps had not been taken to permanently ban prospecting and mining in Antarctica.

Among other decisions, the Assembly deplored Israel's refusal to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and expressed concern at cooperation between Israel and South Africa.

On the issue of nuclear disarmament, the Assembly asked the Conference on Disarmament to continue to consider the question of prohibiting the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

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The United Nations is observing tomorrow, 10 December, Human Rights Day. This year, the Day will not only mark the anniversary of the 1948 adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but will also commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

The landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". The principles of the Declaration were transformed into legally binding norms through the two Covenants and the First Optional Protocol, adopted by the General Assembly in 1966. The Second Optional Protocol, which obliges each State party to take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty, was adopted in 1989.

Both Covenants proclaim the right of all peoples to self-determination, and guarantee the rights they proclaim without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Activities at Headquarters will include the Human Rights Day Programme, organized by the Committee on Security and Independence of the International Civil Service, United Nations Staff Union; and the opening of the exhibition "Auschwitz: A Crime Against Humanity", General Assembly Public Lobby Exhibits Gallery to run through 31 January 1992.

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United Nations

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10 December 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Talks between Government of El Salvador and FMLN to move to New York on Monday, 16 December; Secretary-General appoints three members of "Commission on the Truth" as requested under Mexico Agreement of 27 April.

- Secretary-General, in message to mark Human Rights Day, says links between peace, development and human rights are increasingly being recognized.

- General Assembly calls for register on conventional arms transfer; prevention of terrorism among other texts adopted by Assembly.

- Call for international attention to fate of Haitian nationals fleeing that country and for assistance to them contained in draft approved by Social Committee.

- Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves $9.5 million budget for special political questions, regional cooperation, trusteeship and decolonization.

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The Secretary-General's Spokesman announced today that negotiations between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) were to move to New York on Monday, 16 December.

In a statement on Friday, the Secretary-General said that time was "fast approaching" for the talks to move to New York from Mexico so that he could intervene personally should the need arise. The move would also facilitate the participation of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding in regard to arrangements for verification of the cease-fire.

The Spokesman further announced that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had appointed three members of the Commission on the Truth as requested under the Mexico Agreement, signed by the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN on 27 April 1991.

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For information media—not an official record

The Commission would be charged with the mandate of "investigating serious acts of violence that had occurred since 1980 and whose impact on society urgently demands that the public knows the truth". The three appointees were Belisario Betancur, former President of Colombia; Reinaldo Figueredo, Former Foreign Minister of Venezuela; and Professor Thomas Buergenthal of the United States, former President of the inter-American Court for Human Rights and President of the inter-American Institute for Human Rights.

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The United Nations was observing today at Headquarters Human Rights Day. The Day marks the anniversary of the 1948 adoption of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but focused this year on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

In a message to mark the occasion, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said the links between peace, development and human rights were increasingly being recognized. He noted such "positive developments" as the rise of democratic movements that had enabled people in all regions of the world to "regain control of their destinies". He pointed out, however, that despite an inspiring Bill of Human Rights and other important conventions and declarations, reports of "indiscriminate use of power and brutalization of people" were heard almost every day. He added that world-wide poverty had also denied millions their right to live in dignity.

The United Nations, he said, if its members so wished, could become a focal point and centre for imaginative new initiatives and stronger mechanisms to deal with the challenges of ensuring democracy.

* * *

The General Assembly has asked the Secretary-General to establish, with effect from 1 January 1992, a register of international arms sales.

In yesterday's vote, 150 countries voted in favour to none against, with two abstentions (Iraq and Cuba), to approve the resolution establishing a universal and non-discriminatory register of conventional arms. Countries were asked to provide data on military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies.

By the resolution, States were also asked to provide data on the number of items in the following categories of equipment imported into or exported from their territory: battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile systems.

Explaining his country's vote, the representative of Cuba, Reng Juan Mujica-Cantelar, said that in principle, Cuba was not against a registry, but it was against a partial registry which only dealt with international arms transfer and ignored production, stockpiling, research and development, and

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weapons of mass destruction. As it stood, the text allowed free rein to countries which produced armaments, whereas importing countries had to report on all supplies received.

In other action yesterday, the Assembly adopted, without a vote, a resolution on the prevention of terrorism and the study of its underlying causes. By the text, it condemned terrorism and urged States to prosecute terrorists and prevent the organization of terrorist acts against other States. The resolution said it was without prejudice to the right of self-determination for peoples living under colonial or racist regimes.

The Assembly also asked the Secretary-General to continue seeking the views of Member States on means of combating terrorism, including the convening of an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to deal with international terrorism.

* * *

International attention would be called to the fate of Haitian nationals fleeing the country and the need for support for the efforts undertaken to assist them under the terms of a draft resolution approved this morning by the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

Also by the text, the Assembly would strongly condemn the overthrow of Haiti's constitutionally elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the subsequent violation of human rights in that country. particularly summary executions, torture, searches without warrant, restrictions on the freedoms of movement, expression, assembly and association and the repression of pro-Aristide demonstrations, among other things.

In another action, the Committee decided to postpone until this afternoon consideration of the draft resolution on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections.

* * *

Appropriations of $9,484,400 for the 1992-1993 budget section on special political questions, regional cooperation, trusteeship and decolonization were approved by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday during its ongoing debate on the budget proposal.

Discussion focussed on proposals to reduce funding, given that the number of Non-Self-Governing Territories remained the same as in 1988.

The Committee also discussed the planning and implementation of several new technologies under way in the United Nations, including the areas of telecommunications, an integrated management information system and an optical disk storage and retrieval system. The representative of the United Kingdom said the Secretariat should have the courage to stop the information system project now. No data had been provided to show that the new technology would pay for itself in terms of staff cost savings.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1036
11 December 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, says that without cease-fire in Yugoslavia he can not recommend establishment of United Nations Peace-keeping operation in that country to Security Council.

- United Nations inspection mission reports discovery of chemical bomb-making equipment at sugar factory in Mosul, Iraq.

- Secretary-General to travel to Washington D.C. tomorrow, 12 December, for talks with United States President and to meet former hostages.

- General Assembly calls for full cooperation with United Nations plan for Western Sahara; defers action on composition of Security Council until 1992 session.

- Social Committee approves text proposing the designation of senior official in Secretary-General's Offices to deal with requests of Member States organizing elections.

- Former President of World Bank, at briefing at Headquarters, reiterates 1968 call for population stabilization saying world population has grown by 2 billion since then.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, stated yesterday that under the current circumstances in that country, he could not make a recommendation to the Security Council for the establishment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation there. There had not been "sufficient progress at all" with regard to the cease-fire, he said.

Just back from his fourth mission to Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance was speaking to correspondents at Headquarters following a day-long meeting with Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In reply to questions, Mr. Vance said there had "not been to this moment" compliance with the Geneva Accords of 23 November between the three Yugoslav parties for an immediate cease-fire. Asked if he was disappointed, he said his mission did accomplish an objective of getting the support of all the parties in the humanitarian area.

Mr. Vance said his team had also made good progress in putting together an "operation plan" for the possible deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force. But, proceeding with the United Nations peace-keeping efforts depended on the full compliance with the Geneva Agreement, he said.

* * *

The first combined chemical and biological weapons inspection team to Iraq has reported the discovery of chemical bomb-making equipment at a sugar factory in Mosul, 350 kilometres north of Baghdad.

The United Nations inspectors found equipment from a bomb casing workshop which, according to a June directive by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, should have been moved to the Muthanna State Establishment for destruction early next year. The items found were clearly intended for the manufacture of aerial bombs for the delivery of chemical warfare agents.

In a press release today, the Special Commission said that the 18-member United Nations expert team had inspected 16 sites throughout Iraq, looking for evidence of undeclared chemical and biological weapons activity. The mission was unique, it said, in that all designations were undeclared sites, and concentrated on possible chemical or biological weapons storage sites, such as airfield bunkers and ammunition depots. All inspections were carried out without advance notice to the Iraqi side. The mission used United Nations helicopters as a fast means of transport and for conducting aerial reconnaissance.

The team further reported the discovery at an ammunition storage facility west of Karbala of three undeclared SCUD transporter carriers, which had apparently been discarded and overlooked. The Iraqis were directed to move these carriers to Taji for future destruction.

On a number of occasions, the Special Commission says, the inspection team was hindered when carrying out the inspection. However, following the registering of an official protest by the Chief Inspector, the Iraqi authorities concerned were cooperative for the remainder of the inspection.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Spokesman said today that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar would travel to Washington D.C. tomorrow afternoon for a meeting with United States President George Bush. He said the visit was at the invitation of the President and that the Bush Administration wished to express to the

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Secretary-General its gratitude for his efforts with regard to the release of the hostages. Present in Washington D.C. would be former hostages, Thomas Sutherland, Joseph Cicippio, Alann Steen, Jesse Turner and Terry Anderson.

The Secretary-General would be back in New York in the evening for a meeting with the President of Mexico.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning urged parties in Western Sahara to continue to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in carrying out a self-determination referendum in the Territory. The Assembly took that action by adopting, without a vote, one of 12 texts recommended by its Fourth Committee (Decolonization), whereby it endorsed the Security Council's appeal to the Moroccan Government and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) in regard to the United Nations referendum plan.

Among other decisions adopted, the Assembly called on all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources.

As its first item this morning, the Assembly took up the question of equitable representation and an increase in the membership of the Security Council, hearing from eight speakers, however, no action was taken on the subject as the Assembly decided to defer further consideration on the composition of the Council until its 47th session next year.

Among the speakers on that topic, the representative of Nigeria, Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, said the configuration of power in the world had changed radically and the role and function of the United Nations had undergone important changes since its inception. In the face of such realities however, the Security Council had been the least responsive and its structure was not in accord with present day reality. He said regional groups were not equitably represented, adding that the arrangement under which 3 of the 5 permanent "veto-weilding members" were from the Western Europe and Others Group and 1 each from Asia and Eastern Europe Groups, while Africa and Latin America had no such members, "could hardly be said to be democratic".

* * *

A proposal to designate a senior official in the Secretary-General's Offices to act as a focal point in the handling of requests of Member States organizing elections, was approved yesterday by the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

By the text, the Assembly would endorse the Secretary-General's wish to designate a senior official for that purpose. It would also ask the Secretary-General to allocate, whenever appropriate and within existing resources, a small number of staff and other resources to support the

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designated senior official. The Assembly would also ask the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund for cases where the requesting Member State was unable to finance the electoral verification mission.

* * *

Reiterating his 1968 statement that the record growth of population was one of the greatest barriers to economic growth and social well-being, Robert McNamara, former President of the World Bank, said yesterday that it was essential that both developing and developed countries move to "optimize the rates of population growth across the world". That could be done, he said, by accelerating rates of fertility reduction, by expanding contraceptive programmes and the use of family planning. The former World Bank president stressed that this action must be taken in this decade.

Speaking at a press briefing at Headquarters, Mr. McNamara pointed out that in the twenty-three years since he first made the statement, world population has grown faster than ever before, increasing by some 2 billion and now standing at 5.4 billion. The high rate of population growth had aggravated poverty in the developing countries and adversely affected the role and status of women and children of the world, the former World Bank president said. It had risked the destruction of the physical environment and endangered the ability to move to paths of sustainable development.

Stressing the importance of assistance to developing countries to help them achieve their optimum population objectives, Mr. McNamara said failure to do so would condemn "hundreds of millions " of people to poverty. He said it would cost some $8 billion to achieve world population stabilization of some 9.7 billion people by the end of the decade.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1037
12 December 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General reports to Security Council on Cyrus Vance's fourth mission to Yugoslavia; urges Governments to respond to appeal made by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for joint humanitarian programme.

- Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for further six months term, until 15 June 1992. Council President says in statement following meeting that necessary agreement does not currently exist for change in financing of Force.

- General Assembly takes up law of the sea question; adopts text relating to revitalizing of its work.

- Social Committee ends session's work recommending to Assembly that sufficient resources be ensured for United Nations African Institute for crime prevention.

- European community contributes $16.7 million to United Nations Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for Gaza hospital.

- Committee, meeting in Geneva, asks 1993 World Conference to review possible appointment of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar yesterday submitted his report to the Security Council on the findings of the fourth mission of his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, to Yugoslavia which took place from 1 to 9 December.

In his report to the Council, the Secretary-General said the main purpose of Mr. Vance's mission was two-fold: first, to urge the three Yugoslav parties to the Geneva Accords of 23 November to comply fully with the cease-fire agreement; and secondly, to carry forward discussions with the same parties, on an acceptable concept and operational plan for a peace-keeping operation, should the conditions for such an operation be created.

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For information media—not an official record

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar concluded that the conditions for establishing a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia "still do not exist". While the process of unblocking and withdrawal from Croatia of Yugoslav National Army units was at present proceeding, the unconditional cease-fire remained unimplemented, he said. He noted that a solid basis for the consideration of the establishment of a peace-keeping force had been provided by the Concept Paper describing such a mission.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated further in his report that the general situation in Yugoslavia continued to worsen. The crisis in the humanitarian area in particular was deepening, he said. The number of persons displaced by the conflict now exceeded 500,000 and was still increasing. He strongly urged Governments to respond positively to the appeal that had been made on his behalf by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the joint humanitarian programme.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further period of six months, until 15 June 1992.

In adopting resolution 723 (1991) unanimously, the Council took note of the Secretary-General's recommendations contained in his report of 30 November and noted further that the Government of Cyprus had agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it was necessary to keep the Force in Cyprus beyond 15 December.

By the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices, to keep the Council informed of the progress made and to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution by 31 May, 1992. It also called on all the parties concerned to continue to cooperate with the Force on the basis of the present mandate.

Following the meeting, Council President Yuliy M. Vorontsov (Soviet Union) read a statement saying that in the light of the discussion at the informal consultations of members of the Council, it was concluded that the necessary agreement did not currently exist in the Council for a decision to be adopted on a change in the financing of UNFICYP. The Members of the Council agreed to keep the issue under urgent review, the statement concluded.

The UNFICYP was established under resolution 186 (1964).

* * *

The General Assembly this morning began considering the Law of the Sea question. Before doing so, it adopted without a vote, a resolution relating to revitalization of the Assembly's work. By its provisions, the Assembly's President and the Secretary-General were invited to undertake consultations to ensure adequate staff and facilities were provided to enable the President to carry out his functions.

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During consideration of the Law of the Sea, Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), Chairman of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, introduced the draft resolution on the Law of the Sea. The draft, sponsored by 35 countries, would have the Assembly call upon all States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible, in order to allow the entry into force of the new legal regime.

The Assembly was expected to take action on the draft this afternoon.

Yesterday, the Assembly welcomed the convening of the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October, while stating that an international conference, under United Nations auspices, with equal participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), would contribute to the promotion of peace in the Middle East.

By its resolution yesterday, the Assembly also reaffirmed five basic principles for the achievement of peace in the Middle East: Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory; security arrangements for all States; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees; dismantling Israeli settlements in the occupied territories; and guaranteeing freedom of access to Holy Places.

* * *

Concluding its work for the current session, the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) has recommended that the Assembly ask the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were provided within the 1992-1993 budget to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

In a related statement on the financial implications of the draft, the Secretary-General described possible alternative sources of funding for the Institute. The Institute is currently supported by assessed contributions from African States as well as by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Under the terms of another draft approved yesterday, the General Assembly would request the Economic and Social Council to establish a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice as a new functional body of the Council.

* * *

The Commission of the European Communities has decided to contribute some $16.7 million towards the cost of a 232-bed general hospital in the Gaza Strip, where no major hospital construction has taken place since 1967.

Making the announcement in Vienna yesterday, Ilter Turkmen, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), said the pledge came at a critical time, since it will enable UNRWA to provide urgently needed medical services to an under-served population.

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Scheduled to open in autumn 1994, the 232-bed hospital will serve a rapidly increasing Palestinian population, now totalling over 750,000, of whom more than two thirds are Palestine refugees. The UNRWA project will increase by over 20 per cent, the number of hospital beds available to Gaza residents. UNWRA will still have to raise the remaining $15 million of the estimated $35 million needed to staff and operate the hospital for the first three years.

* * *

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, meeting in Geneva 25 November through 13 December, has recommended the exploration of the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights and the creation of an International Court for Human Rights by the 1993 Berlin World Conference on Human Rights.

The recommendations came as the Committee discussed its contribution to the preparatory process of the World Conference and will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference during its second session in the spring of 1992.

Among other recommendations to the Preparatory Committee is a proposal that Member States of the United Nations put the work of the Organization in the field of human rights, in particular the Centre for Human Rights, on a more adequate financial basis.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1038
13 December 1991

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

◆ Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar awarded Medal of Freedom -- United States Government's highest civil award -- in ceremony at White House in Washington D.C.

◆ Security Council holds consultations to consider Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia.

◆ General Assembly adopts seven resolutions aimed at eradicating apartheid.

◆ Catherine Ann Bertini of United States appointed new Executive Director of World Food Programme for five-year term effective 5. April 1992.

◆ Argentina and Brazil sign safeguards agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency.

◆ United Nations Disaster Relief Office reports Western and American Samoa hit by cyclones, killing 4 people and severing all communications with those territories.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has been awarded the Medal of Freedom -- the highest civil award given by the Government of the United States to persons who have made specially meritorious contributions to world peace and security.

In a ceremony yesterday at the White House in Washington D.C., Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was presented with the medal by President George Bush in recognition of his ten years of distinguished service to the world. During the ceremony, President Bush said of the Secretary-General that his life work in service to humanitarian ideals had won him honour the world over. His tenure had marked the "rebirth of the United Nations: its emergence as a force for peace", he said.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General was accompanied by Mr. Giandomenico Picco, his Special Envoy, who was presented with the President's Award for Exceptional Service for his role in facilitating the release of hostages in Lebanon.

The Secretary-General's spokesman told correspondents today that Mr. Perez de Cuéllar, during a 15-minute meeting with President Bush, had discussed with him the future release of other hostages and the forthcoming negotiations on El Salvador.

Speaking to the press following the ceremony, the Secretary-General mentioned the release of the two German hostages, the search for the Israeli missing persons, the release of the Lebanese detained without due process and the return of the remains of those who died while in captivity, as" unfinished business". The spokesman said that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had stressed repeatedly, both to the press and to the President, that much work is being done, and that he has never stopped his diplomatic efforts even though the release of the American and British hostages took place.

* * *

The Security Council held consultations today to consider the Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia. Following consultations, it was announced that the Council would continue informal consultations tomorrow, Saturday, at 5:00 pm with a view to a formal meeting.

Speaking to correspondents before consultations, Sir David Hannay said it was urgent that a resolution be adopted to strengthen the Secretary-General's and Mr. Vance's hand and to indicate the Security Council's position ahead of the discussions next week in Europe.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning appealed to the international community to support fully the "vulnerable and critical process" now under way in South Africa through a phased application of pressure on South African authorities.

It took that action when it adopted, without a vote, a resolution calling for an immediate end to violence and the removal of any remaining obstacles to free political activities in South Africa. The Assembly also called on South African authorities to enhance the climate for negotiations and appealed to the international community to provide assistance to the opponents of apartheid.

Also this morning, the Assembly, by a vote of 121 in favour to 2 against (United Kingdom and United States) with 34 abstentions, urged States to adopt legislation relating to the implementation of the arms embargo on South Africa and called on them to urge Governments and private financial institutions not to extend new loans and credits to South Africa.

Among other resolutions adopted, the Assembly strongly deplored Israel's military collaboration with South Africa and urged the Security Council to

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consider measures against Israel for its violation of the arms embargo against South Africa. The Assembly also requested all States to enforce measures prohibiting the supply and shipping of oil and petroleum products to South Africa. It further authorized the Special Committee on Apartheid to continue to monitor developments in South Africa as well as relevant actions of the international community.

* * *

The Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have announced that they have decided to appoint Catherine Ann Bertini of the United States to the post of Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), for a term of five years with effect from 5 April 1992.

The announcement of the appointment of Ms Bertini who is presently Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in the United States Department of Agriculture and responsible for several food assistance programmes was made at the thirty-second session of the Committee on Food aid.

The Secretary-General and the Head of FAO expressed the hope that member nations of the United Nations and of the Agency would continue to support the WFP and extend their full cooperation to the new Executive Director.

* * *

Emphasizing their commitment to international peace and security and their recognition of the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the process, the President of Brazil, Fernando Collor de Mello and the President of Argentina, Carlos Saúl Menen, signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement in Vienna today with the joint Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material (ABACC) and the IAEA.

The new safeguards agreement covers all nuclear materials in all nuclear activities within the territories of Argentina and Brazil, under their jurisdiction or carried out under their control anywhere. It further provides for the application of safeguards to exports of nuclear material and is compatible with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

* * *

The United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) reported today that Western and American Samoa have been hit by cyclones, killing 4 people and severing all communications with the territories.

The Agency said that aerial surveys conducted by the New Zealand air force had revealed extensive damage to housing and public buildings, many of which had been completely destroyed. Vegetation had also been stripped away and roads and power lines flattened.

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The Samoan Head of State has declared a state of emergency and has established a national disaster committee to assess relief needs. Although there has been no request for international assistance so far, Australia and the United Kingdom have provided some initial relief assistance to the territory. Other international aid includes a French naval vessel and New Zealand frigate carrying relief supplies, which are both enroute to Western Samoa, the report said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1039
16 December 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly votes 111 in favour to 25 against with 13 abstentions to to repeal resolution 3379 (1975) equating zionism with racism.

- Security Council decides that conditions for peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia still do not exist, but endorses dispatch of preparatory group scheduled to leave for Belgrade tomorrow, 17 December.

- Government of El Salvador and FMLN begin negotiations in New York with participation of Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America.

- Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia call for removal of Soviet troops from their territory saying Soviet presence threatens "peace and security in Baltic area".

- Fifth Committee recommends $46 million appropriations for peace-keeping operation in Cambodia and for Iraq-Kuwait observer mission.

* * *

By a recorded vote of 111 in favour to 25 against, with 13 abstentions, the General Assembly today repealed its 1975 resolution 3379 which equates Zionism with racism.

The resolution was introduced by United States Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Egleburger who said his Government had rejected the characterization of zionism in 1975 and had worked for its revocation ever since. Noting that the repeal of resolution 3379 had been called for by United States President George Bush in his address to the Assembly last September, Mr. Eagleburger said its sole aim "was to right a wrong and restore the moral authority of the Organization".

In other activities today, the Assembly observed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In a statement to the Assembly, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said that over the years, the Covenants had provided a "solid foundation" for the development of a variety of other human rights instruments, including those relating to the fight against torture and the promotion of the rights of women, of children and of migrant workers and their families, as well as the fight against racial discrimination and apartheid. Looking to the future, the Secretary-General said, "we cannot but feel a sense of dismay at the tragic realities of the world in which we live", where the tyranny of power, poverty and discrimination too often brutalizes human beings. In such a world he said, the protection of the weak and the vulnerable required that the implementation of the human rights instruments assume a quality of moral urgency.

Also today, the Assembly paid tribute to the Secretary-General for his ten years of service to the United Nations. Assembly President Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia) said that over the years, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had become well known for his dignity and generous leadership, and wisdom and courage of his convictions. He stated that the Secretary-General was leaving the Organization with a distinguished record of accomplishments, which had greatly enhanced the prestige and international authority of the world body.

* * *

The Security Council has agreed that the conditions for establishing a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia "still do not exist".

However, under its unanimous decision yesterday morning, the Council, at the same time, endorsed the Secretary-General's offer to send a group of personnel, including military personnel, to prepare for the deployment of a peace-keeping operation. That group would be attached to the mission of his Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Mr. Cyrus Vance.

The Council indicated that full compliance with the cease-fire agreement, signed on 23 November in Geneva, would permit accelerated consideration of the placement of a peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

In its resolution, the Council also urged all States and parties to refrain from any action that might inhibit the establishment of a cease-fire. It further asked all countries to report to the Secretary-General within 20 days on the measures they have taken to implement a complete arms embargo on Yugoslavia, and decided to establish a Committee devoted to gathering information on the embargo.

In a reply on 14 December to a letter from the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Secretary-General said that his previous letter of 10 December to Mr. Genscher had not stated that recognition of the independence of particular Yugoslav Republics should be denied, or withheld indefinitely. Rather, he said, the principle of self-determination was enshrined in the United Nations Charter itself. His concerns were related

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to the prospects of "early, selective and uncoordinated recognition", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said.

Early selective recognitions could result in widening of the present conflict to those sensitive areas, the Secretary-General said -- a concern also expressed by the Presidents of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia, as well as by many others. Such a development, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar continued, could have grave consequences for the Balkan region as a whole, and it would seriously undermine his efforts and those of his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, to secure the conditions necessary for the deployment of a peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General's team, led by Mr. Herbert Okun, Mr. Vance's adviser, was scheduled to leave for Belgrade tomorrow, 17 December.

Team members were not going to observe the cease-fire, which was a function of European Economic Community (EEC) observers, the spokesman said. Rather, the Secretary-General's team was going "to carry forward preparations for possible deployment of a peace-keeping operation", as stated in yesterday's Security Council resolution.

The 21-man team would be made up of about twelve military personnel, each representing one country, two civilian police and seven supporting staff.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that delegations of the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had begun their meetings today in New York with the participation of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Mr. Alvaro de Soto. Talks were being held at the level of negotiating commissions and conducted separately, the spokesman said.

* * *

The three Baltic States -- Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia -- have called for the removal of Soviet troops from their territory, saying that Soviet presence there represented "a threat to peace and security in the Baltic area".

In a letter last Friday to the Secretary-General, the Baltic Permanent Representatives to the United Nations asserted that as the Soviet Union disintegrates, there exists the real possibility that the former Soviet Union will be unable to continue to govern the activities of its armed forces stationed in the their countries.

They stated that when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics recognized their independence on 6 September, no measures were taken by the Soviet Union to withdraw its "sizeable and well-armed forces" from the territory of these countries. They further asserted that there was no treaty "or any other agreement" permitting the Soviet Union to station its armed forces in Estonia,

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Latvia or Luthuania, adding that there was no justification for Soviet armed forces to remain on the territory of these States.

The three Baltic Representatives urged that the United Nations closely monitor the developing situation, stressing that the Organization could play an effective role in reducing the threat posed by the presence of the troops.

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The General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday approved over $46 million for two peace-keeping operations, following debate on the financing of missions in Cambodia and Iraq.

Nearly $14 million was approved for the six-month period of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), beginning 1 November. And over $33 million was approved for the financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for the period 9 October 1991 to 8 April 1992.

In other action yesterday, the Committee approved $360,000 for United Nations Human Rights activities during the next biennium, which would provide for the public information activities relating to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1040
17 December 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses hope for "irreversible progress" in El Salvador talks currently underway at Headquarters.

- Secretary-General emphasizes need for restructuring of United Nations in farewell statement to General Assembly.

- United Nations invited as observer at first plenary session for Convention for a Democratic South Africa, next weekend in Johannesburg.

- General Assembly appeals for assistance to Angola and Liberia; adopts resolutions on eradication of poverty, among other things.

- Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves appropriations for activities concerning Chernobyl, communications decade for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, among other things; speakers discuss United Nations financial situation.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that he hoped, "if not for a definitive and final agreement", at least for irriversible progress in the negotiations between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

In reply to questions by correspondents this afternoon, he said working papers, containing the key points in the talks, had been presented to the parties by his Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto. The key points included the national civilian police, the armed forces reduction, and reintegration of the FMLN into civilian life, among other things.

The Secretary-General said the parties seemed eager to reach an agreement while he -- a Latin American -- was still in office. If necessary, Mr. de Soto would continue his efforts after 31 December since he was "the soul of this negotiation", Mr. Perez de Cuéllar said.

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(more)

For information media--not an official record

With two weeks left of his ten-year tenure as Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar yesterday delivered his farewell statement to the General Assembly.

Addressing the question of restructuring of the United Nations, he noted that review, reform and renewal in the Organization was necessary, if it was to keep pace with the times. However, he said, change could not be viewed as a purely managerial or administrative affair.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar told the Assembly that he envisioned the United Nations as the "central agency" for upholding the rule of law, and thereby providing the necessary equilibrium and defence against anarchy. For this, he said, it would need the cohesive management, equipped with the necessary powers and resources. But most of all, it would need to be rescued from the financial bankruptcy which dogs it at present, he said.

The new Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt, will begin his 5-year term on 1 January 1992.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar had received an invitation for the Organization to be present as an observer at the first plenary session of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa which will take place on 20 - 21 December.

The United Nations delegation will be led by Mrs. Sadago Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who will also serve as Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, and by Ibrahim A. Gambari, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations. The third member of the delegation will be Sotirios Mousouris, Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre against Apartheid. They will be accompanied by four staff members of the United Nations.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General expressed his best wishes for the success of the Convention and hoped that the goals of achieving a peaceful transition to a new democratic order would be reached as soon as possible.

* * *

On the recommendation of its Second Committee (Economic and Financial), the General Assembly this afternoon welcomed the signing of the Peace Accords for Angola, which had created political conditions for the country's economic and social rehabilitation, and reiterated its appeal to the international community to continue to render assistance necessary for that rehabilitation.

(more)

Among six other resolutions recommended by the Second Committee, one called upon the international community to provide Liberia with assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, which the Assembly recognized as being important elements for facilitating the holding of democratic elections in that country.

By another resolution on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, the Assembly stressed the importance of effective domestic budgetary policies to mobilize and allocate domestic resources for the eradication of poverty. It also reiterated that a supportive international economic environment was crucial to the efforts of developing countries to deal with that problem.

* * *

Appropriations totalling $933,200 for activities concerning the Chernobyl disaster, communications decades for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the living conditions for the Palestinian people were approved yesterday by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

During the Committee's ongoing debate on the United Nation's financial crisis and financial emergency, the Controller responded to criticism of the Secretary-General's proposal that the Organization charge interest on late or unpaid assessments. Approximately $1 billion was outstanding, which was tantamount to the United Nations giving an interst-free loan to Member States. The United Nations was not a bank, he said.

Among others addressing the Committee on that question, the representative of Norway, Inga Erikson, speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said those countries supported the proposal to charge interest at commercial rates to Member States on unpaid assessments as a general rule. As to the proposal to authorize the Secretary-General to borrow commercially, she said there would be difficulties in finding a fair formula to pay the expense of interest on the borrowed money.

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United Nations

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Advance team arrives in Belgrade to explain to Yugoslav parties implementation of plan for United Nations peace-keeping operation.

- Secretary-General welcomes recent agreement between the two Koreas aimed at improving relations between them.

- General Assembly endorses responsibility of States to organize their own elections; appeals for non-interference from outside.

- Secretary-General's Executive Delegate announces new pledges received for the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq.

- Chairman of Palestinian Rights Committee, announcing her departure from New York, says tireless efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that the advance team to prepare for the possible deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia would arrive in Belgrade this evening.

He told correspondents upon entering the Secretariat that the 21-member team would provide clarification to the three Yugoslav parties and explain how to implement the peace-keeping plan that his Special Envoy Cyrus Vance discussed with them on his last mission to Yugoslavia. The team would report back to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

On Sunday 15 December, the Security Council gave the green light for the sending of the preparatory team, and indicated that full compliance with the cease-fire agreement, signed on 23 November in Geneva, would permit accelerated consideration of the placement of a peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

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(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General said today through his Spokeswoman that he warmly welcomed the recent agreement between the two Koreas aimed at improving relations between the two sides all the more since he was responsible for the question of Korea when he was Under-Secretary-General and had followed the developments in the Korean peninsula very closely over the years. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar expressed hope that these trends towards a peaceful solution would be maintained.

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The General Assembly has reaffirmed that it was the concern solely of peoples to determine methods and establish institutions regarding the electoral process. It strongly appealed to States to refrain from taking actions to undermine the electoral process in any country.

By another decision yesterday, the Assembly asserted its belief that the international community should continue to give serious consideration to ways in which the United Nations could respond to the requests of Member States seeking to strengthen their electoral procedures. It also endorsed the Secretary-General's view that he should designate a senior official in his Offices as the focal point for handling those requests.

Today, the Assembly adopted a "New Agenda" for the development of Africa in the 1990s, as set out in an Annex to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

The report, adopted without a vote, stressed that while Africa's development was primarily the responsibility of Africans, the international community should accept the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa and commit itself to fully supporting African efforts.

In other actions this morning, the Assembly requested the United Nations system to continue the consideration of possible technical and other specialized assistance and specific actions in the areas most affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Regarding the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990s), the Assembly commended the initiatives already taken by the countries exposed to disasters to reduce their vulnerability, and encouraged them to continue with the adoption and implementation of national disaster mitigation policies.

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The Secretary-General's Executive Delegate, Sadruddin Aga Khan, announced today that the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq has received new pledges from Luxembourg, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom totalling some $8 million.

(more)

A press release issued at Headquarters said that the additional pledges would cover the Contingent's needs to the end of the year. Until now, lack of funds had necessitated repatriation of a number of Guards so that the Contingent now numbered 360 Guards.

The Contingent's strength would be restored within the next few weeks to 500 Guards, the press release said.

* * *

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), this morning informed the Committee that she had been called by her Government to take up other duties and would be leaving New York at the end of the week.

In her farewell statement, she drew attention to the "tireless and devoted efforts" of the Committee, which had now begun to bear fruit. She said she looked forward to the day when Palestine would be able to sit as a full member state of the United Nations. Until that day, the Committee would continue to work in support of the rights of the Palestinian people. It was her hope that peace would triumph in 1992.

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